

PRESS RELEASE

First batch of Dakshana Scholars creates history at NEET 2017

In 2016, Dakshana rolled out the One-year Scholarship program to help rural students prepare for NEET - the country's most competitive entrance exam for medical colleges, for the first time at its campus in Kadus Village, Pune. 69 scholars including boys and girls from government schools across India were selected for the first batch.

Preparations began in July 2016 and the scholars appeared for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test held in May 2017. All 69 scholars have qualified at the NEET and have created history for Dakshana with a 100% result. While 30 of them have qualified for the 15% All India Quota seats at medical colleges all over India, it is estimated that each of the 69 scholars will qualify for a seat in a medical college under the state quota.

Dakshana's assistance to prepare for the NEET turned out to be most invaluable for Dakshana scholar Sadika Mehroon who hails from a small village in Kargil, J&K. Sadika lived for a year at the Dakshana campus in Pune far away from her home and family in Kashmir to prepare for the NEET. Sadika's village has no electricity and the closest hospital is nearly 15 kms away from her village. Sadika always dreamt of becoming a doctor and opening a clinic in her village to treat local patients. "This dream would have remained unfulfilled if Dakshana would not have helped me prepare for the exam," says a happy Sadika. Younger girls from Sadika's village now want to study better and aspire to be able to get a Dakshana scholarship in the future paving their way towards a promising career in medicine.

Dakshana scholar Vikas Patidar, from Madhya Pradesh, who has qualified for a seat in the 15% All India Quota plans to apply for a seat at Armed Forces Medical College, Pune. He wants to serve the nation as an able doctor. "We sincerely hope that his dream comes true, as the armed forces will be proud to have a dedicated doctor in Vikas. I am sure he will set the right example for many other Dakshana scholars who will follow in his footsteps to be of service to their motherland," feels Colonel Ram Kumar Sharma, CEO Dakshana Foundation who has been a motivating force for these young minds.